



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
News Release

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Contact: Debbie Santiago Phone 661-391-6097

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**BLM Implements Wildland Fire Restrictions on Public Lands
in Fresno, Kings, Madera, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties**

Due to extreme dry conditions, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is implementing fire restrictions on all BLM public lands in Fresno, Kings, Madera, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties, including popular recreation areas such as Carrizo Plain National Monument and the San Joaquin Gorge.

These special limitations prohibit the use of any open fires on public lands due to extremely dry grasses and high fire danger. The fire restrictions became effective Monday, June 7, 2004 and will remain effective until further notice. Campers are urged to be familiar with special limitations prior to visiting any public lands in these counties.

The following activities are permitted during fire restrictions:

- Only lanterns and portable stoves are permitted using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel outside of developed recreation sites or designated fire use areas.
- A valid California campfire permit is required. Campfire permits are available free of charge at any BLM or Forest Service Office.
- Vehicles must stay on designated roads.

The following activities are prohibited:

- No open fires are allowed on public lands in any dispersed area.
- No smoking is allowed, except within a vehicle or enclosed area.
- No welding or any torch is allowed with an open flame, except by special permit.
- No explosives are allowed, except by special permit.

Violations are punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year in jail. For additional information contact BLM's Bakersfield Field Office at 661-391-6000.

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Bakersfield Field Office – 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308
www.ca.blm.gov